

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-16

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S/PRS - MR. KING (INFO)
H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL MILAN NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, IN
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING
MILAN PASS AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN
FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING SEPTEMBER 13,
1974:

QUOTE: Q. THERE WAS A STORY THIS MORNING IN THE TIMES
ABOUT A CABLE THAT AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN HAD SENT TO THE
SECRETARY OF STATE. SEVERAL QUESTIONS ON THAT.

NUMBER ONE, DO YOU PLAN TO MAKE THAT CABLE PUBLIC, NOW THAT
MOST OF IT HAS APPEARED IN PRINT?

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NUMBER TWO, COULD YOU TELL US WHAT IS THE REACTION OF THE SECRETARY, AND HAS HE RESPONDED TO THE MOYNIHAN CABLE?

A. NUMBER ONE, WE DO NOT COMMENT ON CONFIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN OUR AMBASSADORS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

Q. EVEN WHEN THEY ARE PUBLIC?

A. EVEN WHEN THEY ARE PUBLIC. ON BACKGROUND, I AM NOT DENYING THAT SUCH A CABLE EXISTS. AND WE UNDERSTAND THE NEW YORK TIMES DID OBTAIN A COPY OF THIS CABLE YOU ARE

REFERRING TO. WE DON'T DOUBT THAT THEY HAVE ONE, AND ASSUME THAT ANY QUOTES ARE FROM THIS TELEGRAM, WHICH INCIDENTALLY THE SECRETARY OF STATE READ. I HAVE NO REACTION OF THE SECRETARY. THERE HAS BEEN NO RESPONSE TO THE TELEGRAM, TO MY KNOWLEDGE.

Q. IN THE VIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT, AND ESPECIALLY PEOPLE THAT WORK ON THE INDIA DESK, ARE AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN'S CONCERNS THAT HE EXPRESSES IN THAT CABLEGRAM, ARE THEY JUSTIFIED OR NOT?

A. I'M NOT GOING TO COMMENT ON ANYTHING IN THE CABLE THAT WAS REPORTED IN THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Q. CAN YOU COMMENT ON THE GENERAL STATE OF OUR RELATIONS WITH INDIA AT THIS POINT?

A. OUR RELATIONS WITH INDIA ARE EXCELLENT. AS I HAVE SAID HERE MANY TIMES BEFORE, THE SECRETARY OF STATE IS LOOKING FORWARD VERY MUCH TO HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP TO INDIA.

Q. WHEN WILL THAT BE?

A. I CANNOT GIVE YOU ANY TIME ON THAT YET.

Q. SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, SOMEONE SAID, HIGH UP IN THIS BUILDING, I BELIEVE, THAT WE WOULD KNOW IN TWO DAYS.

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A. SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, I TOLD YOU -- AND MAYBE SOMEONE ELSE IN THIS BUILDING TOLD YOU -- THAT HOPEFULLY IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS THERE WOULD BE OFFICIAL DATES. BUT I HAVE EXPLAINED OVER THE LAST TEN DAYS HERE THAT AS SOON AS WE HAVE THE DATES, WE WILL LET YOU HAVE THEM. THERE IS A QUESTION -- ON BACKGROUND -- OF COORDINATING DATES WITH A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTS FOR A PROPOSED TRIP THE SECRETARY IS GOING TO MAKE. AND I WILL GIVE THEM TO YOU WHEN I HAVE

THEM.

Q. IS THE DEPARTMENT LOOKING INTO THE LEAK OF THE CABLE TO THE NEW YORK TIMES?

A. TO MY KNOWLEDGE, NO.

Q. WHAT IS THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE TELEGRAM?

A. I'M NOT GOING TO DISCUSS THE TELEGRAM.

Q. CAN YOU SAY WHETHER IT WAS CLASSIFIED OR NOT?

A. NO.

Q. WAS THE TELEGRAM OBTAINED HERE OR IN NEW DELHI?

A. ASK THE NEW YORK TIMES, I DON'T KNOW.

Q. TO WHAT EXTENT DO DISCLOSURES LIKE THIS TEND TO COMPLICATE -- DISCLOSURES LIKE THE U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN CHILE -- TO WHAT EXTENT DOES THAT TEND TO COMPLICATE RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE CHARGES OF U.S. CIA INVOLVEMENT HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE PAST? DOES THIS TEND TO REINFORCE SUSPICION OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT?

A. I'M NOT AWARE THAT WE HAVE HAD COMPLICATIONS IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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To: MILAN NEW DELHI
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